

REMEMBER—IT'S SUMMER FOR YOUR PETS TOO!



Here in the High Desert, with our particularly hot and dry environment, pets can face some serious challenges, especially during the summer months. It's up to pet owners to take extra steps to keep our four-legged friends safe and comfortable.

The ideal situation would be to keep pets indoors when it's hot, but if pets must be left outside, make sure they have adequate shade and water to last throughout the day. Shade in the morning may not translate to shade in the afternoon. Water needs to be plentiful, and put in dishes that will not tip over, or heat up from the sun. Also, food that is left outside can quickly go bad in the heat.

Most importantly, pets should never be left inside of a vehicle, for any amount of time. During the High Desert's searing summer months, interior vehicle temperatures can reach up to 140 degrees in just minutes, and leaving a window slightly open will have little effect.

Officials from the Victorville Animal Care and Control Division have responded to more than 40 reports of dogs left in vehicles in recent weeks, so they are asking residents to leave their dogs at home rather than in a hot car, where they can quickly suffer brain damage, or even die from heat stroke.

You may not realize this, but heat exhaustion is very common with dogs. Be aware of early signs which include rapid breathing, heavy panting and salivation, plus fatigue, muscle tremors and staggering. Should your dog get to this point, get him to the coolest, shadiest place available, apply wet towels to help cool down his body, and give only small amounts of water—then contact a veterinarian.

Victorville Animal Control will be citing pet owners for animal cruelty when an animal is endangered due to heat, lack of ventilation or lack of food and water.

Law enforcement and Animal Control are also authorized to take necessary steps to remove an animal that has been left in a vehicle. Call your local animal control agency or local law enforcement to report animal cruelty. In Victorville, Animal Care and Control can be reached at (760) 955-5089.

outdoor water demand.

In the High Desert, it's particularly important to take those extra measures to save water, like using an automatic irrigation system. This is one of the best ways to keep landscape healthy while minimizing water waste.

While the Irrigation Association's website at http://www.irrigation.org/Resources/Smart_Irrigation_Month/Smart_Irrigation_Month.aspx, has many resources for professionals and water suppliers, it is also a great source of information for consumers.

Con't Page Two

PREPARE FOR SNAKE SEASON

High Desert summer temperatures also effect snakes, causing several varieties to emerge from their winter dens and pop up around the area.

Of the dozen or so types of snakes most commonly seen, only the Mojave Green and Sidewinder rattlesnakes are venomous; however, any snakebites can be painful. To be safe, never disturb or pick up a snake you come across.

Victorville residents can call the city at 760-955-5089 if they encounter a snake near a habitable part of their property and would like it removed.

Other High Desert residents should check with their city, or if appropriate, the county, to verify their service.

If bitten by a snake, it is helpful to know what type of snake, or at least what it looks like. If the bite is from a venomous snake, or you aren't sure, try to remain as calm as possible and call 911 for immediate help.



Avoid lethal encounters by getting to know the facts:

- Rattlesnakes strike when threatened or deliberately provoked; and given room, they will retreat.
- Most snakebites occur when a rattlesnake is handled or accidentally touched by someone walking or hiking.
- Most bites occur between the months of April and October when snakes and humans are most active outdoors.
- Do not step or put your hands where you cannot see, and avoid wandering around in the dark.
- The majority of snakebites occur on the hands, feet and ankles.
- Rattlesnakes account for more than 800 bites each year with one to two deaths, according to the California Poison Control Center.
- If you are bitten, call 911, or have someone call for you and request to be taken to the nearest hospital; do not drive yourself.

Source: CA Department of Fish and Wildlife



Smart Irrigation Month is an Irrigation Association initiative developed to increase public awareness of the value of water-use efficiency, and to grow demand for water-saving products, practices and services.

When the initiative was launched in 2005, the month of July was chosen, as it is traditionally the month with peak



JULY IS SMART IRRIGATION MONTH Con't from Page One

The site offers simple strategies for how to plant right, invest in an irrigation system, water wisely, as well as maintaining and upgrading your irrigation system, and working with an irrigation professional when necessary.

Planting right is one of the keys to a successful and water-smart landscape. For inspiration and resource guides to help choose the right drought tolerant plants for the desert, visit our website at VictorvilleWater.com and scroll down to Conservation Programs and Events.

Another important key is using an automatic irrigation system to keep your lawn and landscape beautiful and healthy, while minimizing water waste. These systems allow for adjusting watering schedules to suit individual zones, accounting for time of day,

sprinkler type, sun or shade exposure, and soil type in each zone.

Plan carefully for a reliable, flexible irrigation system that can grow and evolve along with your landscape. Keep in mind that an irrigation system needs to be maintained to remain effective. Check your system monthly for leaks, broken or clogged sprinkler heads, sprinklers needing readjustment, and other problems.

If you do not currently have an automatic irrigation system, but are considering installing one, you may want to work with a professional. If so, be sure to obtain multiple bids, check references, and confirm that your vendor is properly licensed and insured. A list of certified professionals can be found on the Irrigation Association's website (listed above).

4th of July Celebration!

Celebration and Fireworks display at the Fairgrounds from 4 PM – 9 PM.

**Live Music—Vendors—Water Slides
Bounce Houses—Food and more.**

FREE Admission & Parking

For more information call 760-241-1313

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Sugar Bush

Rhus ovata

- Plant: Evergreen shrub
- Water Use: low
- Mature Size: 8-15' tall & wide
- Exposure: Full sun, part shade
- Bloom Time: March—May
- Native to: California, Arizona, and Mexico
- Hardiness: Cold hardy to 0°F



Sugar Bush is a very long-lived, evergreen, aromatic shrub with lush, deep green, leathery leaves that are slightly folded like a taco shell. Maroon twigs and leaf stems, as well as reddish bracts that enclose the flower buds, strike a nice contrast with the deep green foliage. Pinkish flower clusters in late winter or spring produce red berry-like fruits (drupes) in summer that are coated with long strands of sugar, giving the bush its name. Traditionally, and even today, people harvest and soak these 'berries' in water to make a refreshing drink like lemonade. This multi-branched sumac can be pruned into an attractive, single or multi-trunk shade tree. A workhorse of many southwest gardens, it is ideal for screens, hedges, windbreaks, for erosion control on slopes, or as a specimen on its own. Although slow-growing, it is worth the wait.

SHRED-FEST 2014

August 2nd

8 am to 12 noon

Victorville Valley MRF Recycling Center

**17000 Abbey Lane in Victorville
(just off Stoddard Wells Rd.)**

✓ **Shred Fest**

FREE on-site document shredding to all Victor Valley Residents. There is a limit of four (4) 20 lb. boxes.

✓ **Compost/Mulch Giveaway**

"Load your own" mulch giveaway - so be sure to bring your own shovels and bags or other containers. Mulch and compost limit is 50 gallons. Residents only - no businesses.

✓ **Visit Recycle Alley at the MRF**

Free drop off for old TVs, computers, appliances, scrap metal, mixed paper, plastic, glass, cardboard, and newspaper.

✓ **Visit Our Buy Back Center at the MRF**

Redeem your CRV bottles and cans for CASH. Cardboard and newspaper is also accepted.



Sponsored by the City of Victorville and Burretec Waste Industries. For more information, call the City of Victorville Recycling Program at (760) 955-8615.

Summer Watering Hours

June–September

10 PM – 6 AM

The Green Scene

This newsletter is produced by the Environmental Programs Division of the Community Services Department, City of Victorville. For more information about any of our programs, please contact:

Recycling at 760-955-8615 and/or
Water Conservation at 866-955-4426

VictorvilleRecycles.com

VictorvilleWater.com

City of Victorville

<http://victorvilleca.gov>